

From: "gth" gth@freemail.absa.co.za To: "G T Honiball" gth@freemail.absa.co.za Subject: SARL NEWS 2002:01:06 ENG TEXT Date: 05 January 2002 01:23

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 6 JANUARY 2002

This is Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with its weekly news bulletin. This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) and packet bulletin boards.

Here are the headlines of today's news:

NEW CALL SIGN BOOK ON ITS WAY

AO-40 "OFFICIALLY IN THE 'DEAD ZONE' "

NEW ZEALAND AMATEUR LF SIGNAL HEARD IN NOVA SCOTIA

SPARK GAP SIGNAL HEARD FOR HUNDREDS OF KILOMETERS

NOMINATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR SARL AND TINUS LANGE AWARDS

PEARS VHF/UHF CONTEST THIS MONTH

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

You are listening to ZS6SRL. The news follows in detail.

NEW CALL SIGN BOOK

The new call sign book is in the printing process and it is planned to mail it with the Jan/Feb issue of Radio ZS during the last week of January.

This is a free service only to members of the SARL. SARL membership is the only way to obtain this call sign book. Now is the time to become a member of the SARL and gain access to all the services available to members.

AO-40 "OFFICIALLY IN THE 'DEAD ZONE' "

AO-40 satellite ground controllers have begun adjusting the spacecraft's attitude as it enters a period of unfavorable sun angles.

The satellite relies on solar panels for its power. The satellite is currently in a long period during which Earth eclipses the sun near perigee—its point closest to Earth. These periods will continue well into next June.

The attitude shifting necessary to compensate for the unfavorable sun angle will leave AO-40's antennas pointing away from Earth for several weeks.

The RUDAK digital transponder was scheduled to be off for up to five days.

Yoshi Takeyasu, JA6XKQ, of the JAMSAT SCOPE team, recently announced the release of several new photos taken by the SCOPE cameras aboard AO-40.

The photos are available on the JAMSAT Web site <http://www.jamsat.or.jp/scope/011215/>.

For more information on AO-40, visit the AMSAT-NA Web site <http://www.amsat.org/>.

#### NEW ZEALAND AMATEUR LF SIGNAL HEARD IN NOVA SCOTIA!

Another new low-frequency distance record is being claimed. New Zealand DX tests coordinator Bob Vernal, ZL2CA, reports that on December 15, John Currie, VE1ZJ, in Canada, managed to receive and positively identify 136-kHz signals from ZL6QH, in New Zealand. ZL6QH, the Quartz Hill club station, is run by the Wellington Amateur Radio Club. The path from ZL6QH near Wellington to VE1ZJ in Sydney, Nova Scotia, has been calculated at 15,645 km. VE1ZJ detected the ZL6QH transmission using a PC and ARGO DSP software.

An Amateur Radio LF signal spanned the Pacific for the first time on June 30, 2001, when Steve McDonald, VE7SL, of British Columbia, Canada, detected a 184-kHz signal from ZL6QH. The feat was repeated in September. Vernal said the next test from ZL6QH in the 136-kHz band likely would occur in mid-January.

What about it, who is enterprising enough to be the first to receive that signal in our country? There should still be enough space for the erection of an approximately 1100 m antenna!

#### SPARK GAP SIGNAL HEARD FOR HUNDREDS OF KILOMETERS

David Wilson, VE3BBN, reports his commemorative spark gap transmissions December 12 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Marconi's 1901 transatlantic experiments were heard hundreds of kilometers away. Wilson, who lives near Niagara Falls, Ontario, built a low-power rotary spark transmitter and secured permission from Industry Canada (that country's FCC equivalent) to use it briefly on 80 meters. He transmitted "MARCONI S" twice a minute and said he got more than 450 reports but estimated that only about 60 of them were valid. "The best distance was Kansas City," he said—some 1360 km away. He noted that the majority of the reports were in the 320 to 640 km range. Additional information, photos and audio of what his transmitter sounds like are available on the "Spark Gap Transmitter Signals for Marconi Centennial" Web site <http://www.qsl.net/g4rfr/marconi.htm>.

#### NOMINATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR SARL AND TINUS LANGE AWARDS

This is a reminder that nominations are to be submitted for 9 awards by the SARL as well as for the two Tinus Lange Technical Awards.

The closing date for the SARL awards is 22 February 2002 and it should be addressed to The Secretary, SARL Annual Awards, PO BOX 1721 STRUBENSVALLEI 1735.

The closing date for submission of nominations for the Tinus Lange 7066 Technical Awards is 31 January 2002 and must be addressed to: SARL Tinus Lange Awards, P O Box 1721, Strubensvallei, 1735.

For full details about the awards visit the web page of the SARL at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za), or look at previous bulletins or request [sarlnews@hotmail.com](mailto:sarlnews@hotmail.com) to forward it to you.

#### PEARS VHF/UHF CONTEST THIS MONTH

As announced previously, the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society's annual VHF/UHF contest will take place over the weekend 25 to 27 January 2002. One of the new categories in the contest, the MULTI-OPERATOR STATION, permits operation of a single station by a number of operators, all using the same call sign as for a CLUB STATION.

There is also a new category for digital modes.

Clubs are asked to include this item in several of their local weekly bulletins in order to reach as many potential participants as possible.

The updated rules are obtainable from the PEARS web site, [pears.8m.com](http://pears.8m.com).

Clubs and individuals are urged to take part in this competition as it will also be a good practice run for the May and September VHF/UHF competitions.

#### PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

In his first bulletin of the year, Heliophile Tad Cook, K7VVV, of Seattle, Washington spent some time reviewing last year and said as follows:

If we look at the average daily solar flux and sunspot numbers for 2001, it was really a very good year with lots of activity, considering that the peak was supposed to be in 2000. Average daily sunspot numbers for the years 1997-2001 were 30,7, 88,5, 136,3, 172,8 and 170,3. Average daily solar flux values for those same years were 81, 117,7, 153,7, 179,5 and 181,6. Given those numbers, both 2000 and 2001 look like peak years for the cycle.

Average quarterly sunspot numbers for 2001 were 147,3, 164,8, 170,4 and 198,1. Average quarterly solar flux for the same period was 164,4, 166,7, 175,5 and 219,1, so solar activity increased over the year.

Over the past week, average sunspot numbers were up 13 points, and average solar flux was about the same. Sunday had unsettled geomagnetic conditions, probably from a flare on Friday. Friday's flare upset the 10,7-cm receiver at the Penticton observatory, which read a solar flux of 655,6 for the day. This was adjusted downward by NOAA SESC to 263.

Predicted solar flux for Friday through Monday is 220, 215, 210 and 210.

#### CLUB NEWS

#### FREE STATE HAM RADIO EVENT

The Bloemfontein Amateur Radio Club is planning Hamvention 020202 on Saturday 02 February 2002 at their club house at Air Force Base Bloemspruit. More details to follow.

The SARL News Service invites Clubs and individuals to contribute news regarding Amateur Radio. Please send all news items to sarlnews@hotmail.com. It will be highly appreciated if it is done in Afrikaans as well as English and sent as early in the week as possible.

Also join us in the following activities: The President's Net on Sundays 12:00 on 7082 kHz; Amateur Radio Mirror International Sundays at 10:00 on 9750 and 21560 kHz which is repeated Mondays at 20:00 on 3215 kHz.

We thank all contributors, individuals, clubs, the ARRL and other organisations for contributions to this bulletin and all stations who so reliably relay the bulletins.

This bulletin was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read by.....from . . . .

You have been listening to ZS6SRL.

This bulletin now ends and Sarlnews wishes you a pleasant week.

Goodbye to all. /EX